

Message Text

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SUBJECT: SOMALI DROUGHT- DECLARATION BY SOMALI GOVERNMENT

1. USUN RECEIVED FROM THE SOMALI MISSION A COPY OF THE FOLLOWING
DECLARATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOMALI DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC ON THE DROUGHT.

2. QUOTE

MOGDISHO, DEC. 1 - THE SUPREMEREVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL
AND THE COUNCIL OF SECRETARIES IN THEIR JOIN EXTRA-
DINARY

MEETINGS HELD ON THE 29TH AND 30 TH OF NOVEMBER , 1974,
CONSIDERED THE DROUGHT SITUATION OBTAINING IN THE COUNTRY. FROM
THESE MEETINGS THE FOLLOWING HAS EMERGED:

DECLARATION :

IN VIEW OF THE FACT TH T THE RAINS OF DAIR SEASON
HAVE COMPLETELY FAILED IN MOST PARTS OF THE COUNTRY, AND
PROVED TO GE SCARCE IN THE REMAINING PARTS,

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CONSIDERING THAT IN GENERAL CONDITIONS OF DROUGHT OR SEMI-

DROUGHT HAVE PREVAILED IN THE COUNTRY SINCE 1968 WITH EXCEPTION OF 1972, HAVING NOTED THE DETAIL RPORTS OF THE VARIOUS SRC AND COUNCIL OF SECRETARIES JOINT MISSIONS WHO HAVE JUST RETURNED FROM THE EXTENSIVE TOURS TO ALL THE REGIONS, DISTRICTS AND VILLAGES OF THE COUNTRY, BEARING IN MIND THAT RAINS ARE TO BE EXPECTED UNTIL THE NEXT GU SEASON (5-6 MONTHS AWAY), AWARE OF THE FACT THAT EVEN THOSE AREAS THAT HAVE HAD A LITTLE A RAIN, THERE HAS ALREADY BEEN SUCH A HEAVY CONCENTRATION OF PEOPLE AND LIVESTOCK THUS CREATING CTNDITIONS OF DROUGHT, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOMALI DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC,

1. DECLARES THAT SEVERE CONDITIONS OF DROUGHT PRESENTLY EXIST IN MOST PARTS OF THE COUNTRY AND THAT IT WILL SOON COVER THE WHOLE TERRITORY OF THE SDR AS WELL AS THE ADJACENT SOMALI INHABITED AREAS.
2. THOSE REGIONSWHERE SERIOUS DRTUGHT CONDITIONS PREVAILS AND WHICH ALREADY MAINTAIN FAMINE RELIEF CAMPS WITH PROGRESSIVELY INCREASING NUMBER OF IMPROVERISHED PEOPLE POURINGINTO THE CAMPS ARE: BARI, SENAG, NUGAL, TOODER AND MUDUG.
3. THOSE REGIONS ALREADY AFFECTED BY DROUGHT AND WHICH ARE EXPECTED TO START FAMINE RELIEF CAMPS SOON ARE : GALGADUD, HIRAN AND BAKOL,
4. ALL THE REMAINING REGIONS ARE EXPECTED TO BE AFFECTED FROM JANUARY ONWARDS.

DECISIONS:

IN CONSEQUENCE OF THE DECLARATION MENTIONED ABOVE THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN THE FOLLOWING DECISIONS:

1. TO IMPOSE EMERGENCY MEASURES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY FOR THE DURATION OF THE DROUGHT CONDITIONS.
2. TO SAPRE NO EFFORTS OR RESOURCES TO SAVE THE LIVES OF PEOPLE AND LIVESTOCK IN AFFECTED AREAS BY:
 - (A) ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING RELIEF CAMPS FOR THE IMPOVERISHED PERSONS, (B) EXTENDINGAS MUCH ASISTANCE AS POSSIBLE TO THOSE AFFECTED PERSONS AND COMMUNITIES WHO DO NOT RESPORT TO THE RELIEF CAMPS, (C) TO MAINTAIN THE PRESENT LEVEL OF THE PRICES OF ESSENTIAL FOOD COMMODITIES TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC BY SUBSIDING THE CONTINUOUSLY RISING COSTS OF IMPORTED

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FOOD ITEMS DURING THE COMING YEAR. THIS IS NECESSITATED BY THE FACT THAT THE ALREADY LIMITED PURCHASING POWER OF THE POEPLER IS BOUND TO BE FURTHER WEAKENED BY THE PREVAILING GENERAL CO DITIONS OF DROUGHT.

- (D) TO ENDEAVOUR AS FAR AS POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE WATER, FORAGE AND VACCINES TO THE LIVESTOCK IN AFFECTED AREAS AND WHEN NECES-SARY TO ARRANGE FOR THEIR PHYSICAL TRANSFER TO LESS AFFECTED ZONES.

3. TO MAINTAIN REGULAR RECORDS OF THE EXTENT OF THE DROUGHT AND PREPARE DETAILED ESTIMATES OF ANY LOSSES IN LIFE TO BE INCURRED, ITS EFFECT ON THE NATIONAL ECONOMY AND THE RESOURCES REQUIRED TO COPE WITH IT.

4. TO PLAN FOR THE FUTURE REHABILITATION OF THE PEOPLE IN THE RELIEF CAMPS AND THE AFFECTED AREAS,

5. TO MOBILIZE ALL THE FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCES THAT COULD BE

RAISED INTERNALLY OR EXTERNALLY WITH A VIEW OF FACE THE EFFECTS OF THE DROUGHT.

IN THIS RESPECT, WHILE AWARE OF THE TREMENDOUS RESOURCES THAT WILL BE NEEDED FOR THIS PURPOSE ON THE ONE HAND, AS WELL AS THE LIMITATIONS OF THE FINANCIAL RESOURCES OF THE GOVERNMENT, IT HAS ALL THE SAME BEING DECIDED TO ALLOCATE IMMEDIATELY SUM OF 150 MILLION SHILLINGS TO HELP MEET THE COSTS OF THE EXISTING RELIEF CAMPS AND TO SUBSIDY REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN THE PRICES OF ESSENTIAL FOOD ITEMS AT THEIR PRESENT LEVEL.

ORGANIZATION OF THE DROUGHT OPERATION

1. WITH A VIEW TO IMPLEMENT THE DECISIONS THAT HAVE BEEN TAKEN IT HAS BECOME NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH A DETAILED AND COMPREHENSIVE ORGANIZATION BASED ON THE WORK OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES AT THE RELIEF CAMPS AND FIELD LEVEL, THROUGH THE VILLAGE, DISTRICT A

AND REGIONAL LEVELS UP TO THE HIGHEST ORGAN CONSISTING OF A CENTRAL RELIEF COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE SRC.

2. SINCE THIS ORGANIZATIONAL SET UP WOULD BE IDENTICAL WITH THAT ALREADY IN EXISTENCE FOR THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT CAMPAIGN, AND MOST PERSONS IN KEY POSITIONS IN THE DISTRICTS AND REGIONS WOULD BE INDISPENSABLE FOR BOTH OPERATIONS, IT HAS BEEN DECIDED TO MERGE THE TWO OPERATIONS AND MAKE USE OF SAME ORGANIZATION WITH ADDITIONAL MANPOWER.

3. THE CENTRAL RELIEF COMMITTEE WILL BE ASSISTED BY TWO
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SPECIAL OFFICE MANNED BY EXPERTS AND EXPERIENCED MANAGERS WORKING ON FULL BASIS;

(DROUGHT OPERATION OFFICE: TO DEAL WITH THE RECEIPT, STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD, MEDICINE, FUEL, TRANSPORTATION AND EQUIPMENT ETC., AS WELL AS ALL OTHER ASPECTS CONCERNING THE DETAILED ADMINISTRATION OF FUND AND RELATED TASKS.

(B) RESEARCH AND REHABILITATION OFFICE: PREPARE GENERAL DOCUMENTATION ON THE DROUGHT, COLLECT GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE EXTENT OF THE DROUGHT CONDUCT CONTINUOUS SURVEYS, COMPILE DATA ON LOSSES OF PEOPLE AND LIVESTOCK AND QUANTIFY THE EFFECTS OF THE DROUGHT ON THE NATIONAL ECONOMY.

THIS OFFICE WILL FURTHER WORK OUT PROGRAMS OF REHABILITATION AND SUBMIT SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR THE REDEPLOYMENT OF RESOURCES AND PEOPLE TO ALLEVIATE THE POSSIBLE ADVERSE CONSEQUENCE OF

THE DROUGHT BEFORE IT TAKES FULL EFFECT THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

4. IT HAS FURTHER BEEN DECIDED TO ESTABLISH ANOTHER COMMITTEE HEADED BY THE 3RD VICE PRESIDENT OF THE SRC ENTRUSTED WITH THE TASK OF SUPERVISING AND CONTINUOUSLY CONTROLLING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ORGANIZATION SET-UP TO DEAL WITH VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE DROUGHT.

APEAL:

GIVEN THE DIFFICULT CONDITIONS THAT THE NATIONS IS GOING THROUGH AND THE NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES IT IMPLIES WITH IT BOTH FOR THE PEOPLE AND LIVESTOCK, IT BECOMES IMPERATIVE FOR EVERY SOMALI TO BE MORE RESPONSIBLE AND FULLY PARTICIPANT IN THE NATIONAL EFFORT.

THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE ADVSRSE EFFECTS OF THIS CALAMITY WILL BE GREATLY MINIZED IF ALL OF US FACED IT TOGETHER.

THEREFORE, AN URGENT APPEAL IS MADE TO ALL SOMALIS (A) TO SPARE NO EFFORT TO RENDER EVERY POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE TO THE STRICKEN BROTHERS; (B) TO STRICTLY OBSERVE PEACE AND SECURITY IN THOSE AREAS WHERE THERE HAS BEEN INFLUX OF PEOPLE AND LIVESTOCK AND (C) ALL PUBLIC TFFICIALS TO IHCREASE THEIR EFFORTS AND SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY WITH A VIEW TO COPE MORE EFFICIENTLY WITH THIS GLAVE SITUATION.

REWARD:

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THE PRESENT NATIONAL STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL WILL UNDOUBTEDLY DISTRIGUISH BETWEEN THOSE WHO, BECAUSE OF THE DEEP SENSE OF PATRIOTISM BELIEVE IN THE FREEDOM, DIGNITY AND THE WELL BEING OF THE PEOPLE, FROM THOSE WHO ALWAYS BETRAY THEIR COUNTRY AND PEOPLE. UNDER THESE TRYING CONDITIONS THE SOMALI PEOPLE WILL WILLINGLY REWARD ALL THOSE WHO PROVE THEMSELVES WORTHY OF IT, AND BY CONTRAST WILL PUNISH THOSE WHO BETRAYED THE NATIONAL CAUSE.SONNA UNQUOTE BENNET

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